

Alley-Carlson House
501 East Walker Street
Jefferson
Marion County
Texas

HABS No. TEX-152

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. TEX-152

ALLEY-CARLSON HOUSE

Location: 501 East Walker Street, between Main and Bridge Streets, Jefferson, Marion County, Texas

Present Owner and Occupant: Mary Carlson

Present Use: Residence

Statement of Significance: This house, with central hall plan, tetrastyle portico and classical details, is typical of a large number of houses in Jefferson.

PART 1. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Nelson Alley, Jr., were the original owners (Jefferson on the Bayou). Mary Carlson, their daughter, acquired the property after their deaths, and now lives there (interview with Mary Carlson).
2. Date of erection: 1859 (Early Texas Homes, p. 98).
3. Architect: Unknown
4. Alterations and additions: A bathroom and an extension of a wing at the rear are the only apparent additions.

B. Historical Events Connected with Structure:

The house was built for Daniel Nelson Alley, Jr., by his father, who was one of the founders of Jefferson.

C. Sources of Information:

Bracken, Dorothy Kendall, and Redway, Maurine Whorton. Early Texas Homes. Dallas, Texas: Southern Methodist University Press, 1956.

Cameron, Rebecca M., and Lester, Ruth. Jefferson on the Bayou. Marshall, Texas: The Demmer Company, 1966.

Interview with present owner, Mary Carlson.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This two-owner house has remained in remarkably original condition. It also contains the original furnishings which were transported from New Orleans by steamboat.
2. Condition of fabric: Very good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately 48' (five-bay front) by 44'.
2. Foundations: Brick piers.
3. Wall construction: Walls are sawn-timber frame finished with $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 6" clapboards.
4. Portico: Tetrastyle portico features fluted wooden columns of Greek Doric order.
5. Chimneys: There are two brick chimneys, plastered on the interior, located inside the exterior walls.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: There are double, two-panel, wooden doors with side lights and transom in main doorway. Four-panel doors in simple, rectangular openings are used elsewhere.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Windows are six-over-six wooden, double-hung sash in rectangular openings. They have large cornices.

Shutters are louvered, two-panel, and swing on iron pintles.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The portico has a very low-pitched shed roof. Over the remainder of the building, there are gable roofs covered with asbestos shingles.
 - b. Cornice: The cornice is constructed from wood and has crown and bed molds. There is a division for the architrave and frieze.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: One-story, central-hall plan type.
2. Flooring: Vertical-grain pine, approximately 5" wide, was used throughout.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: In the entry hall the walls are finished with wallpaper. The dining room walls are finished with narrow, molded, cypress boards applied vertically - unusual for houses in the Jefferson area. These boards have no paint or stain on them. The remainder of the walls are narrow, tongue-and-groove pine boards applied vertically and painted.

The ceilings throughout are finished with narrow, tongue-and-groove pine boards, the same as most of the walls.

4. Interior trim: Pine throughout. Casings and bases are plain.
5. Hardware: Iron butts and latch hardware with porcelain knobs.
6. Lighting: Modern electric fixtures.
7. Heating: Unit gas heaters. Two fireplaces have been filled in. They have wooden mantels.

D. Site:

The building occupies a flat lot approximately 150 feet square. The front door faces south.

There are several prominent trees on the site.

Prepared by Willard B. Robinson, AIA
Supervisory Architect
National Park Service
August 1966

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made in 1966 during a summer project financed by the National Park Service to record 16 structures in Jefferson and the near-by area. The summer recording team received the cooperation of numerous citizens and organizations which provided office space, lodgings, board, and research assistance. Among the cooperators were the Dan Lester Drilling Company, the Excelsior Hotel, Mrs. A. K. Payne,

The Jessie Allen Wise Garden Club and the Marion County Chamber of Commerce.

The project was under the direction of A. Lewis Koue of the Historic American Buildings Survey's Western Office in San Francisco. Supervisor of the recording team was Willard B. Robinson, AIA, of Texas Technological College. The team was composed of student architects Bob J. Fong of the University of Idaho, David L. Bouse of the University of Nebraska, Donald Quackenbush of Washington State University, and Robert M. Swanson of the University of Texas. Photographs were made by National Park Service Photographer, Jack E. Boucher.